

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 9, 11 and 18 have now been amended. No new matter has been added.

Amendment to claim 2 was made to address an error that is clerical in nature. Amendments to claims 3-4, 11 and 18 were made to change antecedence to conform with the amendments to independent claims 1 and 9.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,444,780 of Hartman in view of in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,590,981 of Fruehauf et al. ("Fruehauf"). Claims 3, 9-11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,944,188 of Sinha et al. ("Sinha"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,236 of Crane et al. ("Crane") and U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0019933 of Friedman et al. ("Friedman"). Claims 5-8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,982,506 of Kara.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to now recite “synchronously generating the at least one key by a respective clock system of the central system and of the network user uniquely assigned to the network user.” Independent claim 9 has been amended so as to recite similar subject matter. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification at, for example, ¶¶ 0012 and 0014. It is respectfully submitted that Hartman and Fruehauf fail to teach or suggest the above-recited features of claims 1 and 9. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Hartman does not teach synchronously generating, at the central system and at the network user, the at least one key. See, Final Office Action, mailed April 2, 2009, page 3, second to last paragraph. Nor does Fruehauf teach or suggest synchronously generating the at least one key by a respective clock system of the central system and the network user uniquely assigned to the network user, as now recited in claims 1 and 9. In contrast, Fruehauf merely uses clocks 103 and 116 synchronized from a central reference time, such as Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), via time inputs 101 and 121. See, Fruehauf, column 3, line 45 through column 4, line 21. Clocks 103 and 116 are not disclosed as being uniquely assigned to the network user.

Regarding Sinha, Crane, Friedman, and Kara, it is respectfully submitted that these references singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-recited features of claims 1 and 9 missing from Hartman and Fruehauf. It is respectfully submitted therefore that respective combinations of Hartman, Fruehauf, Sinha, Crane, Friedman, and Kara, to the extent proper, could not render independent claims 1 and 9, and dependent claims 3-8 and 10-20, obvious.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, including any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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